

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 778

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 8785

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: LOPEZ STATE VISIT; PRESIDENT LOPEZ VIEW OF VISIT;

CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ

1. DURING A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT, WE TALKED ABOUT HIS VISIT AND HIS CONCEPT OF IT. LOPEZ DOES HAVE A STRONG DESIRE TO TALK ABOUT HEMISPHERE CONSIDERATIONS, CONCEPTUAL ISSUES CONNECTED THEREWITH, AND US-LA RELATIONS. HE IS IN FACT LOOKING FORWARD TO FRANK AND CANDID TALKS ON THESE THINGS, AND SUCH MATTERS SEEM TO BULK LARGER IN HIS MIND THAN THE SMALLER BILATERAL QUESTIONS. HE MENTIONED NO SPECIFIC ITEMS OTHER THAN PANAMA AND MODIFICATION OF THE TRADE LAW RE VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR (SEE 3 BELOW), BUT HE DID SAY THAT HE HAS NOW TALKED TO ALL HIS NEIGHBORS AND HAS A GOOD IDEA OF THEIR VIEW OF THINGS. HE, IN SUM, WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE AND PROVIDE HIS ESTIMATE AND ANALYSIS OF THINGS AND WHERE WE ALL MIGHT BE GOING.

2. WHILE HE WILL BE VERY FRANK AND CANDID IN HIS PRIVATE TALKS, LOPEZ SAID, HE WILL NOT WISH TO APPEAR AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR LATIN AMERICA IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HE HAS NO WISH TO AROUSE THE JEALOUSIES AND RESENTMENTS OF HIS COLLEAGUES. HE WILL PROBABLY NOT SAY VERY MUCH PUBLICLY ABOUT CURRENT HEMISPHERE ISSUES, ALTHOUGH

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CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ IS PRESSING HIM TO CHAMPION SELA AND

A FEW OTHER THINGS. SIMILARLY, HE SAID, HE HOPES TO AVOID ANYTHING LIKE THE BRAZILIAN VISIT IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S ADMINISTRATION IN WHICH WE BAPTIZED BRAZIL AS OUR SPECIAL ALLY. COLOMBIA, HE SAID, ALREADY TENDS TO BE VIEWED AS AN "ENTREGUISTA" (SOLD OUT) TO THE US BY ECHEVERRIA, PEREZ AND OTHERS, WHO ARE MORE INTERESTED IN CHALLENGING US AS A WAY TO GET THINGS DONE. HENCE, HIS CREDIBILITY AND CAPACITY TO BE HELPFUL DEPEND UPON HIS CAPACITY TO APPEAR "INDEPENDENT". LOPEZ OBSERVED THAT DURING CARLOS LLERAS VISIT IN 1969 THE PRAISE OF COLOMBIA AND ITS DEMOCRACY, ETC., WAS TOO FULSOME, AND, HE ALLEGED, THAT DID NOT SIT TOO WELL WITH CHILE (FREI) AND VENEZUELA AT THE TIME.

3. LOPEZ SAID THAT HE LOOKS FORWARD ESPECIALLY TO HIS TALKS WITH CONGRESS. IF THESE ARE INFORMAL AND OFF-THE-RECORD, HE WOULD LIKE TO BE FRANK AND TO BE "HELPFUL" TO THE ADMINISTRATION, ESPECIALLY ON GREEN AMENDMENT AND PANAMA. (IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IN PRESIDENT FORD'S CONVERSATION WITH HIM TO TOUCH ON HIS MEETINGS WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.)

4. COMMENT: LOPEZ IS GOING TO BE QUITE WILLING--AND EXPECTS--TO TALK ABOUT REGIONAL, HEMISPHERE, AND TO SOME DEGREE BROADER WORLD ISSUES, AND THE PRINCIPALS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THAT. WE WILL NOT HAVE TO LEAD HIM INTO THESE DISCUSSIONS AS MUCH AS WE HAD THOUGHT (BOGOTA 8515). THIS OF COURSE WILL BE HELPFUL SINCE IT MEETS OUR BASIC OBJECTIVES (BOGOTA 8463).

5. RE PARA 2 ABOVE, LOPEZ QUITE CLEARLY IS ASKING US NOT TO EMBRACE COLOMBIA TOO CLOSELY PUBLICLY. THIS SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND IN FINALIZING DRAFTS OF STATEMENTS AND TOASTS FROM OUR SIDE.  
VAKY

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